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THE NATION

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CPYRGHT *State Dept. Security Probe of Contradictions*

The State Department announced yesterday that it is launching a full scale inquiry into the "complicated and potentially serious" security case involving three of its top officials who gave contradictory testimony to a Senate committee. Two of the men were placed on "administrative leave" following the announcement. They are John F. Reilly, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Security and Elmer Dewey Hill, chief of technical service in the Security Office. No mention was made about the status of David I. Belisle, Mr. Reilly's special assistant.

The three men denied in testimony before Senate Internal Security subcommittee last July any knowledge that the telephone of the department's controversial security chief, Otto F. Otepka, had been tapped. Friday the three conceded, in statements to the committee, that they knew Mr. Otepka's telephone was tapped once for a 48-hour period. But no conversations were intercepted, they argued.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D., Conn., the committee chairman, demanded that the State Department bring charges against the three men. Committee member Sen. Roman Hruska, R., Neb., insisted the men should be fired summarily. The department responded with the announcement of its probe, which will start "immediately," officials said.